

INT. MEDIEVAL CASTLE - KITCHEN - DAY

Esther scrubs a pan as Philip appears in the doorway.

PHILIP  
Is Mildred around?

Esther looks up at him then quickly back to her pans.

ESTHER  
No, she's gone to the market.

PHILIP  
Good. Gives us time to chat.

Philip enters as panic spreads across Esther's face.

ESTHER  
I can't imagine what we'd chat  
about.

As he moves closer to her, she stops wiping the pans and crosses to put away the clean dishes, keeping her face turned from him.

PHILIP  
Oh, I have a topic in mind. It's  
Esther, right?

ESTHER  
(still looking away)  
Yes.

PHILIP  
You know, you're very pretty for a  
kitchen maid.

Esther gives him a confused look.

PHILIP (CONT'D)  
I just mean... you're very pretty.

ESTHER  
Thank you?

PHILIP  
You know at the last ball, there  
was a new Lady present who was also  
very pretty. Lady Elizabeth.

ESTHER  
(turns away)  
Oh?

PHILIP  
Yes, in fact, she was quite  
exquisite. The King even danced  
with her.

He moves so he's standing directly behind her, trapping her.

PHILIP (CONT'D)  
It's such a coincidence. She bore  
a remarkable resemblance to you.

ESTHER  
(nervously)  
I doubt we are very similar if she  
is a Lady.

PHILIP  
Well, that's the thing. I don't  
think she is... a Lady.

Philip turns to face her; she remains in the profile.

PHILIP (CONT'D)  
(leans in, whispers)  
I know your secret.

Esther turns to face him.

ESTHER  
What do you want?

Philip laughs.

PHILIP  
Don't fret. I'm not here to expose  
you. I'm here for information you  
may be... privy to.

ESTHER  
What kind of information could I  
offer?

PHILIP  
Being both a member of the staff  
and... a "Lady", you have a unique  
perspective. Have you observed  
anyone angry with the King?

ESTHER  
No.

PHILIP  
Think. Are you sure? No one who's  
made threats, or spoken ill of him?

ESTHER

Not that I am aware. What is this about?

Philip's visibly disappointed. Esther looks at him indignantly.

PHILIP

No -- it's -- the King had a dream.

ESTHER

A dream?

PHILIP

Yes, I am his dream advisor?

ESTHER

I thought you made that up.

PHILIP

Well I didn't. It's my God-given gift. But now, it's my curse as I've no idea what it means... and I'm at a loss to help the King.

ESTHER

I see.

PHILIP

Will you keep an eye out as you masquerade around here? Let me know if you see or hear anything?

ESTHER

You really aren't going to tell anyone?

PHILIP

Who am I to judge? I would like your help, though.

ESTHER

Yes, of course. I will let you know if I see or hear anything.

Philip grabs an apple and moves toward the door.

PHILIP

Much obliged... Lady Elizabeth.

He winks at her as he laughs and exits. Esther breathes a sigh of relief.